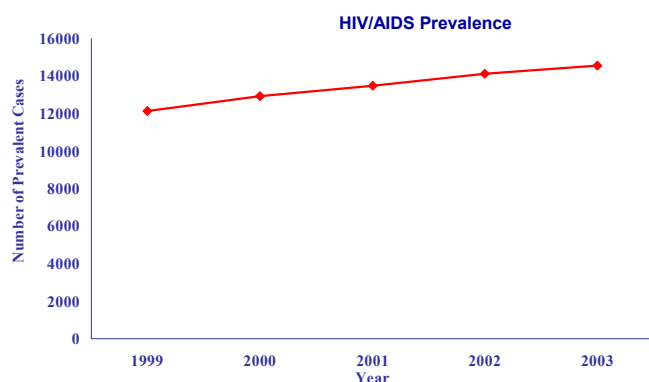




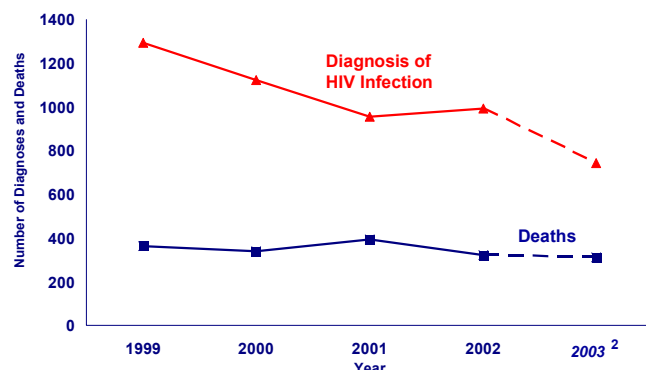
## HIV/AIDS Trends from 1999 to 2003

Figure 1 Trends in HIV/AIDS Prevalence by Year: MA, 1999-2003



Data Source: MDPH HIV/AIDS Surveillance Program; Data as of 7/1/2004

Figure 2 Trends in Deaths among People Reported with HIV/AIDS and Diagnosis of HIV Infection<sup>1</sup> by Year: MA, 1999-2003<sup>2</sup>



<sup>1</sup> Reflects year of diagnosis for HIV infection among all individuals reported with HIV infection, with or without an AIDS diagnosis.  
<sup>2</sup> 2003 Data are preliminary; this number will continue to increase as additional cases are reported throughout the rest of the year.  
Data Source: MDPH HIV/AIDS Surveillance Program; Data as of 7/1/2004

Every year there are more people living with HIV/AIDS in Massachusetts than ever before. As seen in the figures above, in the past five years the number of people living with HIV/AIDS has increased as the number of new HIV infection diagnoses exceeded the number of deaths among people reported with HIV/AIDS. From 1999 to 2003, the number of people living with HIV/AIDS increased by 20%.

## General Statistics

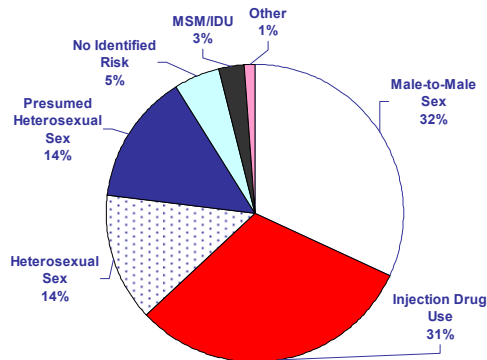
- As of July 1, 2004, a cumulative total of 25,442 Massachusetts residents have been diagnosed and reported with HIV infection and/or AIDS since 1983.
  - Of these people, 42% (N=10,715) have died and 58% (N=14,727) are living with HIV/AIDS.
- Including approximations of Massachusetts residents infected with HIV who do not yet know their status or who have not been reported, there are an estimated 22,000 – 24,000 individuals currently living with HIV/AIDS in the Commonwealth.
  - Of these people, an estimated one quarter do not know their status.

## Who is currently living with HIV/AIDS?

- On July 1, 2004, there were 14,727 people known to be living with HIV/AIDS in Massachusetts (point prevalence).
- Forty-seven percent of people living with HIV/AIDS in Massachusetts are white (non-Hispanic), 27% are black (non-Hispanic), 24% are Hispanic, 1% are Asian or Pacific Islander, and less than 1% are American Indian or Alaska Native. In sharp contrast, black (non-Hispanic) and Hispanic individuals each make up 6% of the Massachusetts population.
- Injection drug use and male-to-male sex are the leading reported risks for HIV infection among people living with HIV/AIDS, accounting for 33% and 30% of all exposures, respectively.

Data Source:  
Massachusetts Department of Public Health HIV/AIDS Surveillance Program, Data as of 7/1/04

**Figure 3 People Living with HIV/AIDS by Exposure Mode: MA**



Data Source: MDPH HIV/AIDS Surveillance Program, Data as of 7/1/04

- Among **males** living with HIV/AIDS, 53% are white (non-Hispanic), 22% are black (non-Hispanic) and 23% are Hispanic.
- Among **females** living with HIV/AIDS, 32% are white (non-Hispanic) 39% are black (non-Hispanic) and 28% are Hispanic.

## Who is experiencing differential impact from HIV/AIDS?

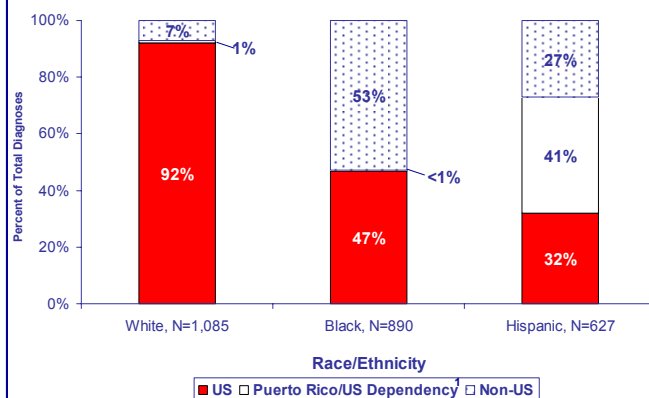
- At rates of HIV/AIDS of 1,256 and 1,062 cases per 100,000 population, black and Hispanic individuals are diagnosed at levels 11 and 9 times that of white individuals (123 per 100,000).
- At rates of HIV/AIDS of 1,616 and 1,547 cases per 100,000 population, black and Hispanic **males** are each diagnosed at levels 8 times that of white **males** (204 per 100,000).
- At rates of HIV/AIDS of 941 and 630 cases per 100,000 population, black and Hispanic **females** are diagnosed at levels 20 and 13 times that of white **females** (47 per 100,000).

## Who is most at risk of HIV infection?

- Of all people diagnosed with HIV/AIDS and reported in Massachusetts, 20,158 were diagnosed with HIV infection before 1999, 1,295 were diagnosed with HIV infection in 1999, 1,123 in 2000, 955 in 2001, and 993 in 2002. As of July 1, 2004, 742 HIV diagnoses were reported in 2003. This number will continue to increase as additional cases are reported throughout the rest of the year, likely resulting in a continued plateau in the number of HIV diagnoses over the past three years.

- The distribution of race/ethnicity across all HIV diagnoses has remained fairly steady from 1999 to 2003 with white individuals accounting for 39% to 43%, black individuals accounting for 30% to 34% and Hispanic individuals accounting for 23% to 25% of new diagnoses in each of these years.
- However, among **females** diagnosed with HIV infection during this time period, the proportion of black females increased from 40% to 51%, while the proportion of white females decreased from 31% to 18%.
- From 1999 to 2003, the proportion of diagnosed HIV infection with male-to-male sex as the primary reported exposure mode increased from 28% to 35%, while the proportion with injection drug use decreased from 29% to 14%.
- Among **males** diagnosed with HIV infection during 1999 to 2003, the proportion of HIV diagnoses with male-to-male sex as the primary reported exposure mode increased from 41% to 50%, and the proportion reported with both male-to-male sex and injection drug use increased from 3% to 4%.
- From 1999 to 2003, the proportion of diagnoses of HIV infection that was among people born outside the US increased from 18% to 29%.
- During the same time period the proportion of **females** diagnosed with HIV infection and born outside the US or its dependencies increased from 29% to 42%.
- Fifty-three percent of black individuals diagnosed with HIV infection within the three year period 2001 to 2003 were born outside the US compared to 27% of Hispanic and 7% of white individuals.

**Figure 4 People Diagnosed with HIV Infection Within the Years 2001 - 2003 by Race/Ethnicity and Place of Birth: MA**



<sup>1</sup> 94% of people diagnosed with HIV infection from 2001-2003 that were born in a US Dependency were born in Puerto Rico; Data Source: MDPH HIV/AIDS Surveillance Program, Data as of 7/1/04

- The number of HIV infections transmitted perinatally among mothers known to be HIV positive who gave birth in Massachusetts has decreased markedly in the past ten years from 32 in 1992 to 1 in 2002.

## Who is infected with HIV but does not yet know?

- People who already have AIDS when HIV infection is diagnosed (or are diagnosed with AIDS within 2 months of HIV infection diagnosis) represent a population that may have first learned about their HIV status late in the progression of HIV disease. It is likely that people who are diagnosed with both HIV infection and AIDS within two months have been infected for more time prior to learning their HIV status than people who learn their status earlier in the course of infection.
- From 2001 to 2003, 811 people already had AIDS when HIV infection was diagnosed (or were diagnosed within 2 months), representing 30% of the 2,690 diagnoses of HIV infection during this time period.
- Thirty-eight percent of people born outside the US who were diagnosed with HIV infection from 2001 to 2003 already had AIDS when they were diagnosed (or were diagnosed within 2 months), compared to 27% of people born in the US or in Puerto Rico and other US Dependencies.

## How have patterns of AIDS diagnoses changed over time?

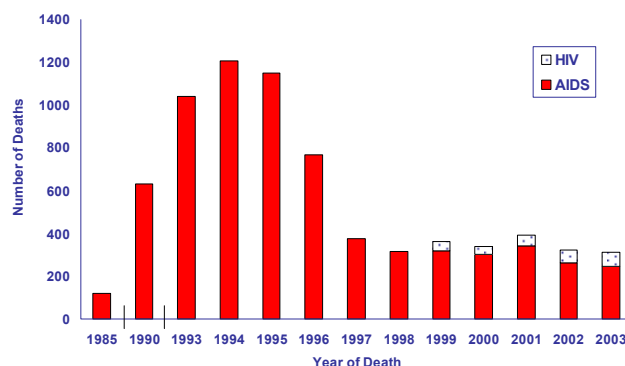
- After reaching a plateau at around 900 cases each year from 1997 to 1999, reported AIDS incidence appears to have declined from 2000 to 2003. However, it is likely this apparent decline is due to reporting lag and that the true incidence of AIDS may continue to plateau as additional case finding increases the number of diagnoses from these years.
- From 1994 to 2003, the proportion of newly diagnosed AIDS cases that are among black (non-Hispanic) individuals increased from 25% to 35% and the proportion among Hispanic individuals increased from 22% to 25%.

- In 1992, the number of new AIDS diagnoses with injection drug use as the reported exposure mode (N=688) surpassed the number of AIDS diagnoses with male-to-male sex as the reported exposure mode (N=650), and this has been sustained through 2003.

## Who is dying with HIV/AIDS and how has this changed over time?

- Over time there has been an increase, decline and then a leveling-off in the incidence of deaths among people reported with AIDS.

**Figure 5 Number of Deaths Among People Reported with HIV Infection and AIDS by Year of Death: MA, 1985-2003**



Note: Death data for people with HIV who had not yet progressed to AIDS are not available before 1999 and therefore not included here. Data Source: MDPH HIV/AIDS Surveillance Program; Data as of 7/1/2004

- Over time, consistent with trends in HIV infection and AIDS diagnoses, females account for an increasing percentage of people who die (or have died) with AIDS (30% in 2003 compared to 19% in 1994).
- From 1994 to 2003, the proportion of deaths among white individuals declined from 60% to 51%, while the proportion of deaths among black individuals increased from 21% to 24% and the proportion among Hispanic individuals increased from 19% to 24%.
- From 1994 to 2003, people with injection drug use as a reported mode of exposure accounted for an increasing proportion of deaths among people reported with AIDS (39% of deaths in 1994 and 52% of deaths in 2003).

*For more detailed information and a description of data limitations please see "HIV/AIDS in Massachusetts: An Epidemiologic Profile." For detailed data tables and technical notes see Appendix.*